



ANDREW DO

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September 13, 2018

The Honorable Mimi Walters
United States House of Representatives
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: H.R. 5797 – Medicaid IMD Exclusion – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Walters:

On behalf of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of H.R. 5797. This bill allows state Medicaid programs beginning fiscal year 2019 through 2023 to remove the Institute for Mental Disease Exclusion for those Medicaid beneficiaries aged 21-64 with an opioid use disorder through a state plan amendment.

Under the current Medicaid statute, federal funding cannot be used to finance care for Medicaid beneficiaries aged 21 to 64 who receive mental or substance use disorder care in a residential facility that has more than sixteen beds. The Medicaid IMD Exclusion acts a barrier for individuals with an opioid use disorder to receive residential treatment, which depending on an individual's treatment plan may be the most appropriate setting for care.

As a part of this bill, Medicaid would pay for up to 30 total days of a beneficiary's care in an IMD during a 12-month period. In addition, it requires states to include information in their plan amendment on how they will improve access to outpatient care, the process for transitioning individuals to appropriate outpatient care, and a description of how individuals will receive appropriate screening and assessment.

For these reasons, the Orange County Board of Supervisors is on record supporting H.R. 5797. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Peter DeMarco, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 714-834-5777.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Do", is written over a horizontal line.

ANDREW DO
Chairman, Orange County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, First District

AD: pdm

cc: Members, Orange County Congressional Delegation
Members, Orange County Board of Supervisors
Frank Kim, County Executive Officer